

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner
 US Department of Commerce
 United States Patent and Trademark
 Office, PCT
 2011 South Clark Place Room
 CP2/5C24
 Arlington, VA 22202
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
 in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 26 February 2001 (26.02.01)	
International application No. PCT/FI00/00581	Applicant's or agent's file reference 50147
International filing date (day/month/year) 28 June 2000 (28.06.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 29 June 1999 (29.06.99)
Applicant MARTIKAINEN, Mika	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

24 January 2001 (24.01.01)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:2. The election ☒ was☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer R. E. Stoffel Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/FI 00/00581

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: C01G 51/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: C01G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5569444 A (PHILIPPE BLANCHARD ET AL), 29 October 1996 (29.10.96), column 3, line 47 - line 61, claim 1, abstract	1-13
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A	US 5057299 A (JEAN A. LOWN), 15 October 1991 (15.10.91), claim 1, abstract	1-13
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☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"I" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"I" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

24 October 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

26 -10- 2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Swedish Patent Office
Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM
Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86

Authorized officer

Moa Grönkvist/ELY
Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

PATENTTIHAKEMUS NRO 991478	LUOKITUS C 01 G 51/04
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TUTKITTU AINEISTO
Patenttijulkaisukokoelma (FI, SE, NO, DK, DE, CH, EP, WO, GB, US), tutkitut luokat C 01 G
Tiedonhaut ja muu aineisto epoque:wpi,epodoc,paj

VIITEJULKAISUT		
Kategoria*)	Julkaisun tunnistetiedot	Koskee vaatimuksia
X	US-A 5569444 (C 01 G 51/00)	1-13
*) X Patentoitavuuden kannalta merkittävä julkaisu yksinään tarkasteltuna Y Patentoitavuuden kannalta merkittävä julkaisu, kun otetaan huomioon tämä ja yksi tai useampi samaan kategoriaan kuuluva julkaisu A Yleistä tekniikan tasoa edustava julkaisu, ei kuitenkaan patentoitavuuden este		
Päiväys 11.1.2000	Tutkija M.Koskela	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 08 OCT 2001

WIPO PCT

Applicant's or agent's file reference 50147/IR	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/FI00/00581	International filing date (day/month/year) 28.06.2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 29.06.1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC ₇ C 01 G 51/04		
Applicant OMG Kokkola Chemicals Oy et al		

- This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.
☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 1 sheets.

- This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Basis of the report
- ☐ Priority
- ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Certain documents cited
- ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 24.01.2001	Date of completion of this report 17.09.2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/SE Patent- och registreringsverket Box 5055 S-102 42 STOCKHOLM Facsimile No. 08-667 72 88	Authorized officer Jan Carlerud/ELY Telephone No. 08-782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FI00/00581

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
 pages 1-6 , as originally filed
 pages _____ , filed with the demand
 pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the claims:
 pages _____ , as originally filed
 pages _____ , as amended (together with any statement) under article 19
 pages _____ , filed with the demand
 pages 7 , filed with the letter of 07.08.2001
- ☒ the drawings:
 pages 1 , as originally filed
 pages _____ , filed with the demand
 pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
 pages _____ , as originally filed
 pages _____ , filed with the demand
 pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language English which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☒ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheet/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2 (c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item I and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FI00/00581

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-9</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-9</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-9</u>	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Documents cited in the International Search Report:

A) US 5569444 A

B) US 5057299 A

This Report refers to the amended claims filed 7 August 2001.

The present invention relates to a hydroxide of cobalt or of cobalt and some other metal. It is intended to provide a product with high density and a large particle size.

Document A describes a hydroxide of cobalt, nickel and cadmium or zinc and its production. The main metal is nickel and the proportion of cobalt in the hydroxide is 1-8%. Ammonium ions are added to a solution of nitrates or sulphates of said metals in an amount such that the ratio of complexing agent to metal is approximately within the interval 0,5-3 specified in claim 1. The temperature is maintained between 80 and 85 degrees centigrade and the pH is regulated to a value of 9,2 +/- 0,1.

The present claim 1 does not specify the proportions of the metals in the hydroxide. However, it specifies the product as "cobaltous hydroxide or... ..of cobalt and some other metal". Thus, the invention is different from what is disclosed in A in that the main metal in the hydroxide is cobalt. Furthermore, the pH is 10-13 and the mixture is not heated.

Document B, which is cited in the description, is cited as a further example of prior art technique.

Therefore, the claimed invention is novel.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FI00/00581

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: V.

In view of what is disclosed in the cited documents, the cobaltous hydroxide cannot be considered to be obvious to a person skilled in the art. Therefore, the invention is considered to involve an inventive step. It is also considered to be industrially applicable.

Claims

1. Cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal, **characterised** in having a density of about $0.5\text{-}2.2\text{ g/cm}^3$, a particle size above about $1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, typically about $1\text{-}20\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, and a specific surface of about $0.5\text{-}20\text{ m}^2/\text{g}$, and that it is prepared by adding a complexing agent and hydroxide ion under alkaline conditions to an aqueous chloride solution of cobalt or to an aqueous chloride solution of an alloy of cobalt and some other metal in order to form metal hydroxide, wherein the complexing agent is selected so as to form an ammonium complex with the metal ion, the molar ratio of complexing agent to metal being approx. $0.5\text{-}3$ and the pH being adjusted in the range $10\text{-}13$.
2. A cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal as defined in claim 1, **characterised** in that the pH is regulated in the range $11.2\text{-}12.0$.
3. A cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal as defined in claim 1, **characterised** in that the other metal is nickel, manganese, magnesium or aluminium, or alloys of these.
4. A cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal as defined in claim 1, **characterised** in that the concentration of the chloride solution is in the range from 10 to 120 g/l calculated on the total metal content.
5. A cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal as defined in claim 1, **characterised** in that the complexing agent is ammonium sulphate or aqueous ammonia
6. A cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal as defined in claim 1, **characterised** in that the molar ratio of complexing agent to metal is approx. $1.5\text{-}2$.
7. A cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal as defined in claim 1, **characterised** in that NaOH is used for pH regulation.
8. A cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal as defined in claim 1, **characterised** in that the reaction is carried out at a temperature of about $40\text{-}90\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.
9. A cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal as defined in claim 8, **characterised** in that the reaction is carried out at a temperature of about $70\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION

(PCT Rule 66)

To:

Berggren Oy Ab
P.O. Box 16
FIN-00101 Helsinki
Finland

Berggren Oy Ab

12/176 19-06-2001

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

15-06-2001

Applicant's or agent's file reference

50147/IR

REPLY DUE

within 60 days
from the above date of mailing

14.8.01

International application No.

PCT/FI00/00581

International filing date (day/month/year)

28.06.2000

Priority date (day/month/year)

29.06.1999

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

C 01 G 51/04

Applicant

OMG Kokkola Chemicals Oy et al

1. This written opinion is the first (first, etc.) drawn by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.

2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

3. The applicant is hereby invited to reply to this opinion.

When? See the time limit indicated above. The applicant may, before the expiration of that time limit, request this Authority to grant an extension, see Rule 66.2(d).

How? By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3. For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

Also For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4.
For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4bis.
For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6.

If no reply is filed, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.

4. The final date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is:

29.10.2001

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/SE

Patent- och registreringsverket
Box 5055
S-102 42 STOCKHOLM

Facsimile No. 08-667 72 88

Telex
17978
PATOREG-S

Authorized officer

Jan Carlerud/ELY
Telephone No. 08-782 25 00

WRITTEN OPINION

International application No.

PCT/FI00/00581

I. Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed
- ☐ the description: _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the claims: _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement) under article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the drawings: _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description: _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language English which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☒ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the written opinion was drawn on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheet/fig _____

5. ☐ This opinion has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2 (c)).

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed".

WRITTEN OPINION

International application No.

PCT/FI00/00581

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-10</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>11-13</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u> </u>	YES
	Claims	<u>1-13</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-13</u>	YES
	Claims	<u> </u>	NO

2. Citations and explanations

Documents cited in the International Search Report:

A) US 5569444 A

B) US 5057299 A

The present invention relates to a method for preparing a hydroxide of cobalt or of cobalt and some other metal with high density and a large particle size and to the product produced with the method.

Document A describes a method for producing hydroxide of cobalt, nickel and cadmium or zinc. Ammonium ions are added to a solution of nitrates or sulphates of said metals in an amount such that the ratio of complexing agent to metal is approximately within the interval 0,5-3 specified in claim 1. The pH is regulated to a value of 9,2 +/- 0,1.

Thus, the claimed method is different from what is disclosed in A in that the pH is 10-13. It is, however, considered to be an obvious measure to a person skilled in the art to perform experiments to find out what effect changes to parameters such as pH, temperature or concentrations have to the product. Therefore, the method of claims 1-10 is not considered to involve an inventive step.

The product specified in claims 11-13 does not differ from the product disclosed in A, see column 3, lines 47-61. Therefore, the invention of claims 11-13 lacks novelty.

Document B, which is cited in the description, is cited as a further example of prior art technique.

WRITTEN OPINION

International application No.

PCT/FI00/00581

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

Claim 13 refers to claims 11 and 12, which both are independent claims. This is not allowed. A dependent claim can refer only to one independent claim.

Patent- och registreringsverket
 Box 5055
 S-102 42 Stockholm
 Sweden

FAX: +46-8-667 7288 (5 pages)
 Confirmation by mail

Authorized Officer: Jan Carlerud/ELY
 Our ref: 50147/IR/MG

**REPLY TO WRITTEN OPINION
 INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION PCT/FI00/00581
 APPLICANT:OMG KOKKOLA CHEMICALS OY**

On account of the Written Opinion issued on 15 June 2001 we submit the following:

We enclose a new claim set directed to the cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal, i.e. to the product itself. The aqueous brine has been amended to a chloride solution as illustrated in the examples.

In applications of the accumulator industry the capacity of the accumulators can be raised by using cobaltous hydroxide with maximum density as an additive in accumulators. In addition it is important that the cobaltous hydroxide used has a small specific surface and a high density. The cobaltous hydroxide of claim 1 has both and also large particle size.

The conventional cobaltous hydroxide is very fine-grained and because of this small particle size it also has large specific surface.

The larger particle size, and specifically the possibility for adjusting the particle size, is achieved by choice of the complexing agent and process parameters, as in claim 1.

In the method of US patent 5,057,299 the mixture is heated and kept in hydrothermal conditions until the cobaltous hydroxide precipitates. With the method of this US patent, the particle size increases at higher temperatures. The method of the patent allows the particle size to be controlled only in the range from approx. 0.05 to 0.5 µm by means of the temperature. Temperature is not critical parameter in the present invention.

Berggren Oy Ab

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 PL 16 • P.O.Box 16
 FIN-00101 Helsinki
 FINLAND

*European Patent Attorney
 **European Trademark Attorney

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 Kotipaikka Helsinki

Berggren

In the US patent 5,569,444 a method for preparing **nickel** hydroxide is presented. There may be only 8 % cobalt among the nickel. Further solutions of nitrates or sulphates are used in the US patent, whereas in the present invention chloride solution is used. Also the pH is lower in the US patent than in the present invention.

The cobaltous hydroxide of claim 1 has considerably larger particle size than the metal hydroxides of the cited prior art, and this is achieved by choice of the complexing agent and process parameters, as in claim 1.

BERGGREN OY AB

Ira Risku

Ira Risku
Patent Agent

Encls

a set of new claims 1 to 9 in triplicate

Claims

531 Rec'd PCT

10018986

19 DEC 2001

1. Cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal, **characterised** in having a density of about $0.5\text{-}2.2\text{ g/cm}^3$, a particle size above about $1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, typically about $1\text{-}20\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, and a specific surface of about $0.5\text{-}20\text{ m}^2/\text{g}$, and that it is prepared by adding a complexing agent and hydroxide ion under alkaline conditions to an aqueous chloride solution of cobalt or to an aqueous chloride solution of an alloy of cobalt and some other metal in order to form metal hydroxide, wherein the complexing agent is selected so as to form an ammonium complex with the metal ion, the molar ratio of complexing agent to metal being approx. $0.5\text{-}3$ and the pH being adjusted in the range $10\text{-}13$.
2. A cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal as defined in claim 1, **characterised** in that the pH is regulated in the range $11.2\text{-}12.0$.
3. A cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal as defined in claim 1, **characterised** in that the other metal is nickel, manganese, magnesium or aluminium, or alloys of these.
4. A cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal as defined in claim 1, **characterised** in that the concentration of the chloride solution is in the range from 10 to 120 g/l calculated on the total metal content.
5. A cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal as defined in claim 1, **characterised** in that the complexing agent is ammonium sulphate or aqueous ammonia.
6. A cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal as defined in claim 1, **characterised** in that the molar ratio of complexing agent to metal is approx. $1.5\text{-}2$.
7. A cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal as defined in claim 1, **characterised** in that NaOH is used for pH regulation.
8. A cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal as defined in claim 1, **characterised** in that the reaction is carried out at a temperature of about $40\text{-}90\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.
9. A cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and some other metal as defined in claim 8, **characterised** in that the reaction is carried out at a temperature of about $70\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.

RECORD COPY

1/4

PCT REQUEST

50147

Original (for SUBMISSION) - printed on 28.06.2000 09:26:26 AM

0 0-1	For receiving Office use only International Application No.	PCT/FI 0 0 / 0 0 5 8 1
0-2	International Filing Date	2 8 JUN 2000 (2 8 -06- 2000)
0-3	Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"	The Finnish Patent Office PCT International Application
0-4 0-4-1	Form - PCT/RO/101 PCT Request Prepared using	PCT-EASY Version 2.90 (updated 10.05.2000)
0-5	Petition The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty	
0-6	Receiving Office (specified by the applicant)	National Board of Patents and Registration (Finland) (RO/FI)
0-7	Applicant's or agent's file reference	50147
I	Title of invention	PROCESS FOR MAKING HIGH DENSITY AND LARGE PARTICLE SIZE COBALT HYDROXIDE OR COBALT MIXED HYDROXIDES AND A PRODUCT MADE BY THIS PROCESS
II	Applicant	
II-1	This person is:	applicant only
II-2	Applicant for	all designated States except US
II-4	Name	OMG KOKKOLA CHEMICALS OY
II-5	Address:	P.O. Box 286 FIN-67101 Kokkola Finland
II-6	State of nationality	FI
II-7	State of residence	FI
III-1	Applicant and/or inventor	
III-1-1	This person is:	applicant and inventor
III-1-2	Applicant for	US only
III-1-4	Name (LAST, First)	MARTIKAINEN, Mika
III-1-5	Address:	Hakalahdenkatu 83 B 22 FIN-67100 Kokkola Finland
III-1-6	State of nationality	FI
III-1-7	State of residence	FI

PCT REQUEST

50147


Original (for SUBMISSION) - printed on 28.06.2000 09:26:26 AM

IV-1	Agent or common representative; or address for correspondence The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as:	agent
IV-1-1	Name	BERGGREN OY AB
IV-1-2	Address:	P.O. Box 16 FIN-00101 Helsinki Finland
IV-1-3	Telephone No.	+358-9-693701
IV-1-4	Facsimile No.	+358-9-6933944
IV-1-5	e-mail	email.box@berggren.fi
V	Designation of States	
V-1	Regional Patent (other kinds of protection or treatment, if any, are specified between parentheses after the designation(s) concerned)	AP: GH GM KE LS MW MZ SD SL SZ TZ UG ZW and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harare Protocol and of the PCT EA: AM AZ BY KG KZ MD RU TJ TM and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Eurasian Patent Convention and of the PCT EP: AT BE CH&LI CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LU MC NL PT SE and any other State which is a Contracting State of the European Patent Convention and of the PCT OA: BF BJ CF CG CI CM GA GN GW ML MR NE SN TD TG and any other State which is a member State of OAPI and a Contracting State of the PCT
V-2	National Patent (other kinds of protection or treatment, if any, are specified between parentheses after the designation(s) concerned)	AE AG AL AM AT AU AZ BA BB BG BR BY BZ CA CH&LI CN CR CU CZ DE DK DM DZ EE ES FI GB GD GE GH GM HR HU ID IL IN IS JP KE KG KP KR KZ LC LK LR LS LT LU LV MA MD MG MK MN MW MX MZ NO NZ PL PT RO RU SD SE SG SI SK SL TJ TM TR TT TZ UA UG US UZ VN YU ZA ZW
V-5	Precautionary Designation Statement In addition to the designations made under items V-1, V-2 and V-3, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all designations which would be permitted under the PCT except any designation(s) of the State(s) indicated under item V-6 below. The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit.	
V-6	Exclusion(s) from precautionary designations	NONE

PCT REQUEST

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VI-1	Priority claim of earlier national application		
VI-1-1	Filing date	29 June 1999 (29.06.1999)	
VI-1-2	Number	991478	
VI-1-3	Country	FI	
VI-2	Priority document request The receiving Office is requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) identified above as item(s):	VI-1	
VII-1	International Searching Authority Chosen	Swedish Patent Office (ISA/SE)	
VIII	Check list	number of sheets	electronic file(s) attached
VIII-1	Request	4	-
VIII-2	Description	6	-
VIII-3	Claims	2	-
VIII-4	Abstract	1	50147.txt
VIII-5	Drawings	1	-
VIII-7	TOTAL	14	
	Accompanying items	paper document(s) attached	electronic file(s) attached
VIII-8	Fee calculation sheet	✓	-
VIII-9	Separate signed power of attorney	✓	-
VIII-10	Copy of general power of attorney ▲▲	✓	-
VIII-16	PCT-EASY diskette	-	diskette
VIII-17	Other (specified):	Copy of Official Action in FI 991478	-
VIII-18	Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract		
VIII-19	Language of filing of the international application	Finnish	
IX-1	Signature of applicant or agent		
IX-1-1	Name	BERGGREN OY AB	
IX-1-2	Name of signatory	Ira Risku	
IX-1-3	Capacity	Patent Attorney	

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10-1	Date of actual receipt of the purported international application	28 JUN 2000 (28-06-2000)
10-2	Drawings:	
10-2-1	Received	
10-2-2	Not received	
10-3	Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application	
10-4	Date of timely receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2)	
10-5	International Searching Authority	ISA/SE
10-6	Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid	

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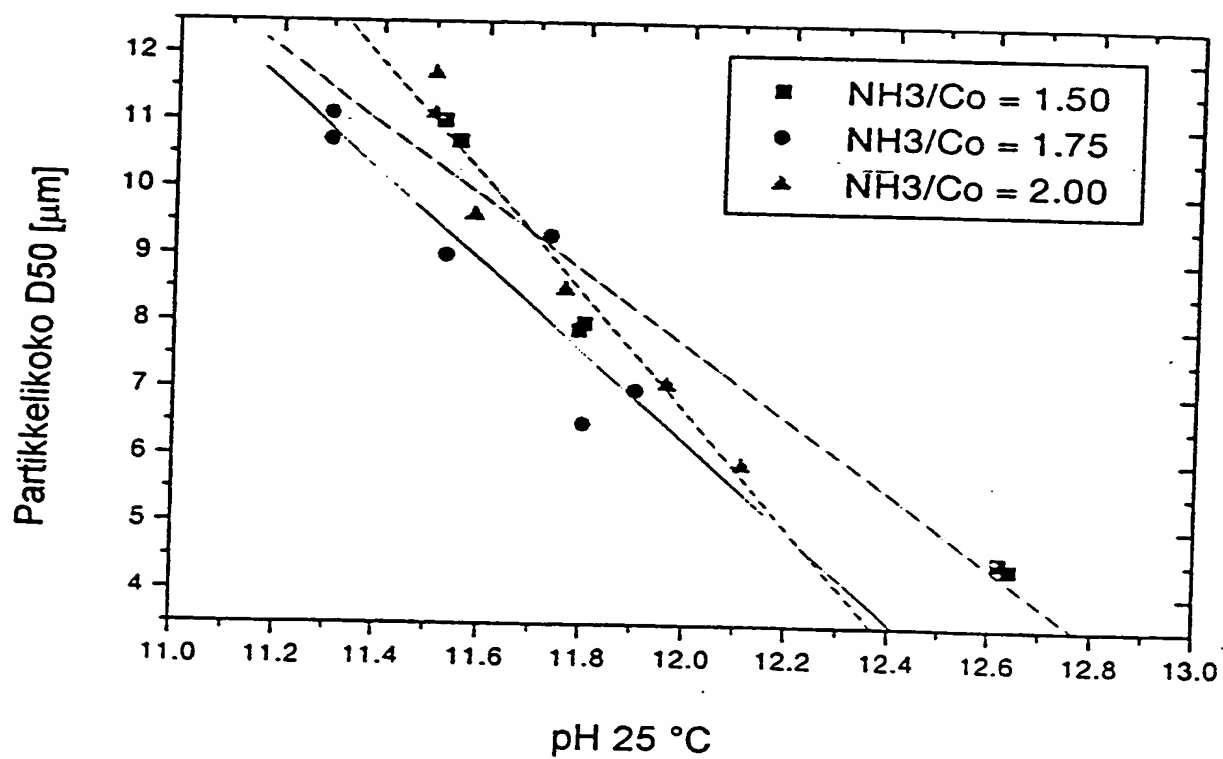
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11-1	Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau	25 JULY 2000	(25.07.00)
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1 / 1



Kuva 1

Menetelmä korkean tilavuuspainon ja suuren partikkelikoon omaavan koboltti-hydroksidin tai kobolttimetalliseoshydroksidin valmistamiseksi ja menetelmällä saatu tuote

- 5 Keksintö koskee menetelmää korkean tilavuuspainon ja suuren partikkelikoon omaavan kobolttihydroksidin tai koboltin ja jonkin muun metallin seoshydroksidin valmistamiseksi. Keksintö koskee myös tällä menetelmällä aikaansaattua tuotetta.

10 Kobolttihydroksidia käytetään monissa sovellutuksissa, esimerkiksi elektroniikka-teollisuudessa lisäaineena ladattavissa NiMH- ja NiCd-akuissa. Lisäksi se soveltuu
käytettäväksi oksidituotteiden, kuten LiCoO_2 ja LiCoMO_2 , valmistuksessa prekurso-
rina (M tarkoittaa metallia). Kobolttihydroksidia käytetään myös katalyyttinä tai
prekursorina katalyyttituotannossa. Edellä mainittuihin tarkoituksiin soveltuu käytet-
täväksi myöskin hydroksidituote, jossa koboltin ohella on jotain muuta metallia,
kuten nikkeliä, mangaania, magnesiumiumia tai alumiinia.

- 15 Alalla tunnetaan monia menetelmiä kobolttihydroksidin valmistamiseksi. US-paten-
tin 5 057 299 mukaisessa menetelmässä kobolttihydroksidia valmistetaan yhdistä-
mällä koboltti-ioni kompleksoivan aineen kanssa, jolloin muodostuu vesiliukoinen
kobolttikompleksi. Tähän lisätään hydroksidi-onia ja seosta kuumennetaan ja pide-
tään hydrotermaalisissa olosuhteissa, kunnes kobolttihydroksidi saostuu. Tämän US-
20 patentin menetelmällä partikkelikoko saadaan kasvamaan korkeampia lämpötiloja
käytettäessä. Partikkelikokoa voidaan patentin mukaisella menetelmällä lämpötilan
avulla säätää kuitenkin vain välillä noin 0,05-0,5 μm .

- 25 Akkuteollisuuden sovellutuksissa NiCd- ja NIMH-akuilta vaaditaan hyvää kapasi-
teettia. Kapasiteettia voidaan nostaa käyttämällä akkujen lisäaineena kobolttihydr-
oksidia, jonka tilavuuspaino on mahdollisimman korkea. Lisäksi oksidituotteiden
valmistuksessa on tärkeää, että käytetyllä kobolttihydroksilla on alhainen ominais-
pinta-ala ja korkea tilavuuspaino. Esillä olevan keksinnön tarkoituksena on saada ai-
kaan menetelmä, jolla voidaan valmistaa suuren partikkelikoon omaavia koboltti-
hydroksidi-partikkeleita tai koboltin ja jonkin muun metallin seoshydroksidipartik-
30 keleita helposti kontrolloitavalla menetelmällä. Tarkoituksena on saada aikaan ko-
bolttihydroksidipartikkeleita tai koboltin ja jonkin muun metallin seoshydroksidi-
partikkeleita, joiden partikkelikoko on yli 1 μm , edullisesti yli 3 μm . Tämä on kek-
sinnön mukaisesti saatu aikaan siten kuin on esitetty oheisissa patenttivaatimuksissa.

Keksinnön mukaisella menetelmällä voidaan valmistaa paitsi kobolttihydroksidia myös koboltin ja jonkin muun metallin tai metalleiden seoshydroksidia. Muina metalleina voidaan käyttää esimerkiksi nikkeliä, mangaania, magnesiumia tai alumiinia tai näiden seoksia käyttötarkoituksen mukaan.

- 5 Keksinnön mukaisessa menetelmässä käytetään lähtöaineena koboltin tai koboltin ja seosmetallien vesipitoisia suolaliuoksia sulfaatin, nitraatin tai kloridin muodossa. Liuoksen konsentraatio voi vaihdella välillä 10-120 g/l kokonaismetallipitoisuuden suhteen laskettuna.

- 10 Tähän metallisuolaliuokseen lisätään sellaista kompleksinmuodostaja-ainetta, joka muodostaa ammoniumkompleksin metalli-ionin kanssa. Kompleksinmuodostaja-aine voi olla ammoniumsulfaattia, vesipitoista ammoniakkia tai jokin muu ammoniumionilähde. Periaatteessa kompleksinmuodostaja-aine voi olla myös jotain muuta metallin kanssa kompleksin muodostavaa ainetta, kuten esimerkiksi EDTA:ta. Esillä olevassa keksinnössä ammoniumioni on kuitenkin havaittu hyväksi kompleksin-
- 15 muodostaja-aineeksi sen halpuuden ja hyvien kompleksinmuodostusominaisuuksiensa takia. Reaktoriin syötettävän ammoniumkompleksinmuodostaja-aineen ja metallin välinen moolisuhde on edullisesti noin 0,5-3, edullisimmin noin 1,5-2,0. Reaktio suoritetaan alkalisissa olosuhteissa ja pH:n säätämiseen käytetään edullisesti NaOH:ia. Edullinen pH-arvo on välillä 10-13, edullisimmillaan pH on välillä
- 20 11,2-12,0. Reaktio suoritetaan lämpötilassa noin 40-90 °C, edullisesti lämpötilassa noin 70 °C. Keksinnön mukaisella menetelmällä saadaan kobolttihydroksidia, jonka tilavuuspaino on noin 0,5-2,2 g/cm³, partikkelikoko yli noin 1 µm, tyypillisesti noin 1-20 µm ja ominaispinta-ala noin 0,5-20 m²/g.

- 25 Keksinnön mukaisella menetelmällä saadut partikkelit ovat muodoltaan heksagonaalisia levymäisiä kobolttihydroksidipartikkeleita. Keksinnön yhteydessä havaittiin, että kloridiliuoksilla saadaan paksumpia hiukkasia kuin sulfaattipohjaisilla liuoksilla, kun muut reaktio-olosuhteet pidetään samoina. Paksumpien hiukkasten katsotaan soveltuvan paremmin esimerkiksi litiumkobolttioksidin valmistukseen.

- 30 Keksinnön mukaisessa menetelmässä kobolttihydroksidin partikkelikokoa voidaan säätää ammoniumionin ja koboltti-ionin moolisuhteen avulla ja käytetyn pH:n avulla. Kuvassa 1 on esitetty partikkelikoon muutos pH:n funktiona erilaisilla NH₃-ioni/Co-suhteilla. Kuvasta nähdään, että pH:n nostaminen pienentää partikkelikokoa, ja että mitä korkeampi on NH₃-ioni/Co-suhde sitä merkittävämpi vaikutus pH:lla on partikkelikokoon.

- Seuraavassa keksintöä on valaistu esimerkkien avulla. Esimerkeissä 1-3 on menetelmä suoritettu vertailuna ilman kompleksinmuodostusta ammoniumionin kanssa. Esimerkeissä 4-6 on kuvattu keksinnön mukainen menetelmä, jossa muodostetaan ammoniumkompleksi koboltin kanssa. Esimerkissä 7 on kuvattu keksinnön mukainen menetelmä, jossa on käytetty koboltin lisäksi nikkeliä. Esimerkeissä on reaktiolämpötilana käytetty 70 °C.

Vertailuesimerkki 1

- CoCl₂:n vesiliuosta (30 g/l Co) syötettiin jatkuvasti ensimmäiseen reaktoriin. pH pidettiin vakioarvossa 11,8-12,0 lisäämällä natriumhydroksidiliuosta. Ensimmäisen reaktorin ylivirtaus johdettiin toiseen reaktoriin, jossa virtaukseen lisättiin natriumhydroksidia siten, että pH oli 13,5. Toisen reaktorin ylivirtaus suodatettiin ja pestiin vedellä. Pesty Co(OH)₂-kakku kuivattiin.

- Kuivatun Co(OH)₂:n keskimääräinen partikkelikoko D50 oli 0,9 µm mitattuna Malvern Mastersizer -partikkelikokoanalysaattorilla (mittaus suoritettiin laserdiffraktiolla vesipitoisesta Co(OH)₂-lietteestä). Tilavuuspaino oli 0,5 g/cm³ (ASTM B527-93). Ominaispinta-ala (BET ASTM D4567-86) oli 30 m²/g.

Vertailuesimerkki 2

- CoCl₂:n vesiliuosta (30 g/l Co) syötettiin jatkuvasti ensimmäiseen reaktoriin. pH pidettiin vakioarvossa 11,6-11,8 lisäämällä natriumhydroksidiliuosta. Ensimmäisen reaktorin ylivirtaus johdettiin toiseen reaktoriin, jossa virtaukseen lisättiin natriumhydroksidia siten, että pH oli 13,5. Toisen reaktorin ylivirtaus suodatettiin ja pestiin vedellä. Pesty Co(OH)₂-kakku kuivattiin.

- Kuivatun Co(OH)₂:n keskimääräinen partikkelikoko D50 oli 1,1 µm mitattuna Malvern Mastersizer -partikkelikokoanalysaattorilla (mittaus suoritettiin laserdiffraktiolla vesipitoisesta Co(OH)₂-lietteestä). Tilavuuspaino oli 0,7 g/cm³ (ASTM B527-93). Ominaispinta-ala (BET ASTM D4567-86) oli 29 m²/g.

Vertailuesimerkki 3

- CoCl₂:n vesiliuosta (30 g/l Co) syötettiin jatkuvasti ensimmäiseen reaktoriin. pH pidettiin vakioarvossa 11,2-11,4 lisäämällä natriumhydroksidiliuosta. Ensimmäisen reaktorin ylivirtaus johdettiin toiseen reaktoriin, jossa virtaukseen lisättiin natriumhydroksidia siten, että pH oli 13,5. Toisen reaktorin ylivirtaus suodatettiin ja pestiin vedellä. Pesty Co(OH)₂-kakku kuivattiin.

Kuivatun $\text{Co}(\text{OH})_2$:n keskimääräinen partikkelikoko D50 oli $1,9 \mu\text{m}$ mitattuna Malvern Mastersizer -partikkelikokoanalysointilaitteella (mittaus suoritettiin laserdiffraktiolla vesipitoisesta $\text{Co}(\text{OH})_2$ -lietteestä). Tilavuuspaino oli $0,6 \text{ g/cm}^3$ (ASTM B527-93). Ominaispinta-ala (BET ASTM D4567-86) oli $35 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

5 Esimerkki 4

CoCl_2 :n vesiliuosta (30 g/l Co) syötettiin jatkuvasti ensimmäiseen reaktoriin, jossa oli ammoniakkin vesiliuosta siten, että metallin moolisuhde ammoniumiin oli 2. pH pidettiin vakioarvossa 11,8-12,0 lisäämällä natriumhydroksidiliuosta. Ensimmäisen reaktorin ylivirtaus johdettiin toiseen reaktoriin, jossa virtaukseen lisättiin natriumhydroksidia siten, että pH oli 13,5. Toisen reaktorin ylivirtaus suodatettiin ja pestiin vedellä. Pesty $\text{Co}(\text{OH})_2$ -kakku kuivattiin.

Kuivatun $\text{Co}(\text{OH})_2$:n keskimääräinen partikkelikoko D50 oli $1,8 \mu\text{m}$ mitattuna Malvern Mastersizer -partikkelikokoanalysointilaitteella (mittaus suoritettiin laserdiffraktiolla vesipitoisesta $\text{Co}(\text{OH})_2$ -lietteestä). Tilavuuspaino oli $0,7 \text{ g/cm}^3$ (ASTM B527-93). Ominaispinta-ala (BET ASTM D4567-86) oli $5,8 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

Esimerkki 5

CoCl_2 :n vesiliuosta (30 g/l Co) syötettiin jatkuvasti ensimmäiseen reaktoriin, jossa oli ammoniakkin vesiliuosta siten, että metallin moolisuhde ammoniumiin oli 2. pH pidettiin vakioarvossa 11,6-11,8 lisäämällä natriumhydroksidiliuosta. Ensimmäisen reaktorin ylivirtaus johdettiin toiseen reaktoriin, jossa virtaukseen lisättiin natriumhydroksidia siten, että pH oli 13,5. Toisen reaktorin ylivirtaus suodatettiin ja pestiin vedellä. Pesty $\text{Co}(\text{OH})_2$ -kakku kuivattiin.

Kuivatun $\text{Co}(\text{OH})_2$:n keskimääräinen partikkelikoko D50 oli $3,9 \mu\text{m}$ mitattuna Malvern Mastersizer -partikkelikokoanalysointilaitteella (mittaus suoritettiin laserdiffraktiolla vesipitoisesta $\text{Co}(\text{OH})_2$ -lietteestä). Tilavuuspaino oli $1,2 \text{ g/cm}^3$ (ASTM B527-93). Ominaispinta-ala (BET ASTM D4567-86) oli $2,6 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

Esimerkki 6

CoCl_2 :n vesiliuosta (30 g/l Co) syötettiin jatkuvasti ensimmäiseen reaktoriin, jossa oli ammoniakkin vesiliuosta siten, että metallin moolisuhde ammoniumiin oli 2. pH pidettiin vakioarvossa 11,2-11,4 lisäämällä natriumhydroksidiliuosta. Ensimmäisen reaktorin ylivirtaus johdettiin toiseen reaktoriin, jossa virtaukseen lisättiin natrium-

hydroksidia siten, että pH oli 13,5. Toisen reaktorin ylivirtaus suodatettiin ja pestiin vedellä. Pesty $\text{Co}(\text{OH})_2$ -kakku kuivattiin.

- 5 Kuivatun $\text{Co}(\text{OH})_2$:n keskimääräinen partikkelikoko D50 oli $7,4 \mu\text{m}$ mitattuna Malvern Mastersizer -partikkelikokoanalysointorilla (mittaus suoritettiin laserdiffraktiolla vesipitoisesta $\text{Co}(\text{OH})_2$ -lietteestä). Tilavuuspaino oli $1,7 \text{ g/cm}^3$ (ASTM B527-93). Ominaispinta-ala (BET ASTM D4567-86) oli $1,8 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

Esimerkki 7

- 10 Valmistettiin seosmetallisuolaliuos sisältäen CoCl_2 - ja NiCl_2 -liuoksia (30 g/l Co ja 8 g/l Ni). Liuosta syötettiin jatkuvasti ensimmäiseen reaktoriin, jossa oli ammoniakin vesiliuosta siten, että metallin moolisuhde ammoniumiin oli 2. pH pidettiin vakioarvossa 11,2-11,4 lisäämällä natriumhydroksidiliuosta. Ensimmäisen reaktorin ylivirtaus johdettiin toiseen reaktoriin, jossa virtaukseen lisättiin natriumhydroksidia siten, että pH oli 13,5. Toisen reaktorin ylivirtaus suodatettiin ja pestiin vedellä. Pesty kakku kuivattiin.
- 15 Kemiallinen analyysi osoitti, että seosmetallihydroksidia oli saostunut. Kuivatun $\text{Co}_{0,8}\text{Ni}_{0,2}(\text{OH})_2$:n keskimääräinen partikkelikoko D50 oli $6,9 \mu\text{m}$ mitattuna Malvern Mastersizer -partikkelikokoanalysointorilla (mittaus suoritettiin laserdiffraktiolla vesipitoisesta lietteestä). Tilavuuspaino oli $1,6 \text{ g/cm}^3$ (ASTM B527-93). Ominaispinta-ala (BET ASTM D4567-86) oli $3,2 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.
- 20 Vertailun helpottamiseksi alla on esitetty taulukon muodossa edellä kuvattujen esimerkkien tuotteiden fysikaaliset ominaisuudet. Taulukossa on lisäksi esitetty tuotteiden kidekoko mitattuna röntgendiffraktiometrillä.

Taulukko 1

Esimerkki	Saostus-pH	Kompleksin-muodostus-aine	Keskimmä-räinen partikkelikoko (μm)	Tilavuuspaino (g/cm^3)	Ominais-pinta-ala (m^2/g)	XRD (001) (nm)	XRD (101) (nm)
Vertailu-esimerkki 1	11,8-12,0	ei mitään	0,9	0,5	30	23	27
Vertailu-esimerkki 2	11,6-11,8	ei mitään	1,1	0,7	29	26	30
Vertailu-esimerkki 3	11,2-11,4	ei mitään	1,9	0,6	35	27	32
Esimerkki 4	11,8-12,0	NH_3 -ioni	1,8	0,7	5,8	50	49
Esimerkki 5	11,6-11,8	NH_3 -ioni	3,9	1,2	2,6	56	56
Esimerkki 6	11,2-11,4	NH_3 -ioni	7,4	1,7	1,8	61	64
Esimerkki 7	11,2-11,4	NH_3 -ioni	6,9	1,6	3,2	59	57

5 Taulukosta voidaan nähdä, että käytettäessä kompleksinmuodostaja-aineena ammoniumionia, saatiin tuotteelle suurempi partikkelikoko ja tilavuuspaino kuin ilman kompleksinmuodostajaa. Poikkeuksena oli esimerkin 4 tuote, jonka partikkelikoko ja tilavuuspaino vastasivat suunnilleen vertailuesimerkkien tuotteiden partikkelikokoa ja tilavuuspainoa. Tosin tälläkin tuotteella ominaispinta-ala ja kidekoko vastasivat esimerkkien 5-7 tuotteiden arvoja.

10 Edellä on esitetty eräitä keksinnön sovelluksia. Keksintöä luonnollisesti ei rajoiteta edellä esitettyihin esimerkkeihin, vaan keksinnön mukaista periaatetta voidaan muunnella patenttivaatimusten suoja-alan puitteissa.

Patenttivaatimukset

1. Menetelmä korkean tilavuuspainon ja suuren partikkelikoon omaavan koboltti-hydroksidin tai koboltin ja jonkin muun metallin seoshydroksidin valmistamiseksi, jossa koboltin vesipitoiseen suolaliuokseen tai koboltin ja jonkin muun metallin seoksen vesipitoiseen suolaliuokseen lisätään alkalisissa olosuhteissa kompleksinmuodostaja-ainetta ja hydroksidi-onia metallihydroksidin muodostamiseksi, **tunnettu** siitä, että kompleksinmuodostaja-aine valitaan siten, että se muodostaa ammoniumkompleksin metalli-ionin kanssa, kompleksinmuodostaja-aineen ja metallin välinen moolisuhde on noin 0,5-3, ja pH säädetään välille 10-13.
- 5 2. Patenttivaatimuksen 1 mukainen menetelmä, **tunnettu** siitä, että pH säädetään välille 11,2-12,0.
3. Patenttivaatimuksen 1 mukainen menetelmä, **tunnettu** siitä, että koboltin tai koboltin ja jonkin muun metallin seoksen suolaliuos on sulfaatin, nitraatin tai kloridin muodossa.
- 15 4. Patenttivaatimuksen 1 mukainen menetelmä, **tunnettu** siitä, että suolaliuoksen konsentraatio on välillä 10 ja 120 g/l kokonaismetallipitoisuuden suhteen laskettuna.
5. Patenttivaatimuksen 1 mukainen menetelmä, **tunnettu** siitä, että kompleksinmuodostaja-aine on ammoniumsulfaattia tai vesipitoista ammoniakkia.
6. Patenttivaatimuksen 1 mukainen menetelmä, **tunnettu** siitä, että kompleksinmuodostaja-aineen ja metallin välinen moolisuhde on noin 1,5-2.
- 20 7. Patenttivaatimuksen 1 mukainen menetelmä, **tunnettu** siitä, että pH:n säätämiseen käytetään NaOH:ia.
8. Patenttivaatimuksen 1 mukainen menetelmä, **tunnettu** siitä, että reaktio suoritetaan lämpötilassa noin 40-90 °C.
- 25 9. Patenttivaatimuksen 8 mukainen menetelmä, **tunnettu** siitä, että reaktio suoritetaan lämpötilassa noin 70 °C.
10. Patenttivaatimuksen 1 mukainen menetelmä, **tunnettu** siitä, että muina metalleina käytetään nikkeliä, mangaania, magnesiumia tai alumiinia tai näiden seoksia.

11. Kobolttihydroksidi tai koboltin ja jonkin muun metallin muodostama seos-hydroksidi, **tunnettu** siitä, että sen tilavuuspaino on noin $0,5-2,2 \text{ g/cm}^3$, partikkeli-koko yli noin $1 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$, tyypillisesti noin $1-20 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ja omiaispinta-ala noin $0,5-20 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.
- 5 12. Patenttivaatimuksen 11 mukainen kobolttihydroksidi tai koboltin ja jonkin muun metallin muodostama seoshydroksidi, **tunnettu** siitä, että muu metalli on nik-keli, mangaani, magnesium tai alumiini tai näiden seos.
13. Patenttivaatimuksen 11 tai 12 mukainen kobolttihydroksidi tai koboltin ja jon-kin muun metallin muodostama seoshydroksidi, **tunnettu** siitä, että se on valmistettu jollain patenttivaatimusten 1-10 mukaisella menetelmällä.

(57) Tiivistelmä

Keksintö koskee menetelmää korkean tilavuuspainon ja suuren partikkelikoon omaavan kobolttihydroksidin tai koboltin ja jonkin muun metallin seoshydroksidin valmistamiseksi, jossa koboltin vesipitoiseen suolaliuokseen tai koboltin ja jonkin muun metallin seoksen vesipitoiseen suolaliuokseen lisätään alkalisissa olosuhteissa kompleksinmuodostaja-ainetta ja hydroksidi-onia metallihydroksidin muodostamiseksi. Menetelmässä kompleksinmuodostaja-aine valitaan siten, että se muodostaa ammoniumkompleksin metalli-ionin kanssa. Kompleksinmuodostaja-aineen ja metallin välinen moolisuhde on noin 0,5-3, ja pH säädetään välille 10-13.